

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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5 1. A method of demultiplexing a statistically multiplexed MPEG transport stream into a constant bit rate single program transport stream comprising the steps of:

separating a variable bit rate single program transport stream from the statistically multiplexed MPEG transport stream;

10 loading a picture from the variable bit rate single program transport stream at the constant bit rate into a smoothing buffer at a specified time, or as soon thereafter as possible, prior to a decode time for the picture; and

transferring the picture from the smoothing buffer at the decode time.

15 2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of replacing B-type pictures at the input to the smoothing buffer with null B-type pictures when the smoothing buffer is in an overflow condition until the overflow condition ceases.

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20 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Demultiplexing of a statistically multiplexed MPEG transport stream into a constant bit rate single program transport stream for decoding uses a smoothing buffer where the pictures from a variable bit